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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

GENERAL BOOKS AND BOOKS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

Influences of Geographic Environment, on the Basis of Ratzel's System of Anthro-Geo-graphy. By ELLEN CHURCHILL SEMPLE. (New York: Henry Holt and Company; London: Constable and Company. 1911. Pp. xvii, 683.)

THE place of geographic influences in the history of a people or of a state has received a clearer statement and more exact definition by this latest work of Miss Semple's. Although originally planned as a presentation of Ratzel's studies and conclusions in condensed form, it has been developed into an excellent piece of research, carried out with scholarly precision and comprehensive grasp of details. Especially to be commended is the constant emphasis laid on the complexity of the subject under consideration. Man is no longer merely the conqueror of natural environment, nor is he considered the passive creature of physiographic influences. The political, social, and industrial evolution of a community is shown to be a resultant of forces acting upon man in every conceivable proportion and degree. The writer, while desiring to avoid the use of such terms as "geographic determinant or control", makes it clear that some few of these forces should be recognized as physiographic or anthro-geo-graphic. Man from this point of view, either as an individual or as a member of a larger group, is an active agent, and receives successive increments of power from the various physical environments in which he is placed. Thus we have presented the influences of land and sea acting through long periods of time upon the fixed or shifting units of population on the globe. The range of sources consulted and the painstaking accumulation of evidence on every detail of the subject, give the work a distinctively encyclopedic character.

From the evidence offered one can hardly avoid the conclusion of the writer that history has in the past been too far separated from geography and that both subjects have suffered from the separation. As a factor of great pedagogical value in presenting the subject of history, geography has long been recognized in Europe as holding first rank. If the present work has no other result in this country, it will stand as a thoroughly scientific demonstration of the vital relation existing between these two great subjects of study. Geographic interpretation of history is comparable in many of its aspects to that which is advanced by the sociologist, the economist, or the lawyer. The essential difference lies in the relative age at which these influences are most potent. The influence of geography belongs rather to the earlier stages of man's development, being most nearly analogous to similar influences that

affect all forms of life. With fuller development of the social and industrial life, physiography no longer acts as directly or openly; its influence becomes more subtle and hidden. The recognition of this rather obvious fact in history marks a decided advance in the attitude assumed in the present volume over that in earlier works on the same subject; there is left for investigation a wide field of history in which physiographic influences may or may not be shown to be important. But the temptation to claim for physiography what clearly belongs to any one of a half-dozen forces in society, is a difficulty hard to be overcome. In the present work several instances of this might be noted. On pages 229 and 231, we are told that the remoteness of Texas from the Mexican capital led to the independence of the former, whereas it is now quite generally agreed that the keen desire for extension of slavery on the part of the Southern leaders and the realization that upon this extension depended their future status in the Union as well as their wealth and standing, forced the accession of new territory both on the Spanish and on the Mexican frontier. It does not always follow that "territorial expansion of peoples and states is attended by an evolution of their spacial conceptions and ideals" (p. 195). Charles V. at the height of Spanish power exhibited a medieval bigotry and narrowness hardly in keeping with the imperial size of his dominions. Louis XIV. in 1685 revoked the Edict of Nantes shortly after La Salle had added the Mississippi Valley to the territories of New France and when the accession of James II. to the English throne gave every promise of keeping this great state in practical subordination to his own land. The failure of Spain to hold her dominant position in Europe, which she had won by means of the gold from America, cannot be ascribed to geographical causes at home, but rather to religious, industrial, and political causes inherent in her half-developed civilization. The steady growth of the English colonies in America arose not from any ethnic coincidence with political area but from the migration of thousands of Europeans, chiefly English, Germans, and French, to these free commonwealths—a movement which can hardly be claimed as a result of geographic influences. If Spain or France had allowed their persecuted and proscribed subjects to find homes under the national flag in America, New France and New Spain could have held their own indefinitely against the English colonies. The discussion of the historical advance from small to large areas in chapter VI. would be better balanced if it contained some adequate mention of the process of decline and death of states as a result of geographic influence. Still more conclusive would be a presentation of similar causes producing the arrested development of state or community in historic times. The part played by physiography in bringing about the accomplished fact appears to be a little too much taken for granted in the discussion of this vital point in history. The economist has quite another theory to account for the same phenomena, so has the sociologist. Whether Washington and Jefferson derived their larger ideas of national

expansion from the French in America is an open question, to say the least. Why the Jews still cling tenaciously to their religion and national ideals while half a dozen of their neighbors in similar localities have been blotted out, may or may not be explained on grounds of geographic influences. In the treatment of so large a field it is impossible to avoid many seeming misconceptions and errors of fact. But a mere enumeration of these does not invalidate the genuine claim which the subject of anthro-po-geography has upon the progressive student. A new vantage-ground for the study of man is here offered to us and, whether generally recognized or not, it is an aspect of history more and more to be reckoned with in the field of genuine scholarship.

O. G. LIBBY.

World Organization as Affected by the Nature of the Modern State. By DAVID JAYNE HILL. (New York: Columbia University Press. 1911. Pp. x, 214.)

IN this work, consisting of eight lectures delivered on the Carpentier Foundation at the Columbia University, the author has sought to show the rationality and feasibility of a general and continuing peace and régime of justice between the nations of the world. This conclusion is predicated upon the growth of a jural consciousness among civilized peoples, and the concrete embodiment of this consciousness in the modern state. Because the modern state is now viewed as a juristic person, possessing rights and owing obligations, and is regarded as having for its essential function the maintenance of justice, Dr. Hill argues that it can enter into a juristic scheme of world-organization without derogation of its autonomy or destruction of its independence. This comprehensive international organization would be juristic in character in the sense that the individual sovereignties party to it would each recognize the definite rights of the others, and provide for the settlement of all disputes that may arise between them by peaceable means and according to juristic principles similar to those which they themselves apply and enforce in the determination of controversies between their own subjects. Dr. Hill places himself squarely among those who hold that there are no international questions which may not thus be equitably and satisfactorily settled. "There are in the world", he says, "no demonstrable rights or interests, as between well-organized States, which may not be adjusted without bloodshed." In the several chapters of his book the author deals successively with the state as the embodiment of law, as a juristic person, as the promoter of general welfare, a member of an international society, a subject of positive law, a mediator of guarantees, and as a justiciable person. He shows the inadequacy of alliances, of the principle of the balance or equilibrium of power, of neutralization, and of federations as means of securing a world-organization. The one efficient means is declared to be the preservation of the independence